

LOFTUS
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

R E P O R T

for the Year 1965

of the Medical Officer of Health

T. M. B. ROHAN,
M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H.



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TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS
OF THE
LOFTUS URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

MR. CHAIRMAN, MADAM AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit my Annual Report for the year 1965, the contents of which are in accordance with the regulations of the Ministry of Health.

The table of classification of the causes of death shows diseases of the heart and circulation to take its usual first place, with cancer a close second.

The warden service started this year with the provision of an intercommunication system in selected bungalows in the Mars Estate and plans were made for the installation of a similar service in Easington.

The “Meals on Wheels” service continued to do the good work of previous years in caring for the nutrition of the aged people of the district.

The provision of a chiropody service for aged and handicapped people began at the clinic and is very well attended—the chiropodist being on duty there on Fridays.

The attendance of children at the clinic continued to grow and I am very pleased to state that the immunisation figure for the district still continued its upward trend.

I would like to record my thanks to the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee for their encouragement throughout the year.

To the Heads of Departments I am again obliged for their co-operation at all times. To Mr. W. C. Ranson, whose report follows mine, I owe an especial debt for his unstinted help in all matters concerning the health of the District.

Finally, I wish to thank the two clerical officers, Mr. R. K. Nuttall and Miss D. E. Fox, who working in the Area Health Office, have contributed to the smooth conduct of affairs.

I am, Madam and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

T. M. B. ROHAN,

Medical Officer of Health.

September, 1966.

TABLE 1
Public Health Officers

Whole Time Officers	Guisborough Urban District	Skelton & Brotton Urban District	Loftus Urban District
Medical Officer of Health who is also Asst. County Medical Officer No. 4 Area N.R.C.C. and School Medical Officer, N.R.C.C.	Dr. T. M. B. Rohan		
Public Health Inspectors	*Mr. A. T. Pallister	Mr. J. H. Rhodes	*Mr. W. C. Ranson
Additional Public Health Inspectors	Mr. E. Ward	Mr. R. M. Chalmers	Mr. W. Murray

*Also Surveyor of the district concerned

County Public Health Staff attached to the Loftus Area.

Miss R. F. Cracknell	Health Visitor School Nurse
Miss E. A. Carswell	Health Visitor School Nurse
Miss H. J. Lindsley	District Nurse Midwife
Miss E. Pressick	District Nurse Midwife
Mrs. A. Thompson	District Nurse Midwife
Miss D. G. Pybus	District Nurse
Mr. R. K. Nuttall	Senior Clerk
Miss D. E. Fox	Clerk Typist.

SECTION 1.

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area

Population

The Registrar-General's estimate of the population of the district in the mid-year 1965 is 8,120 as compared with one of 8,100 for the mid-year 1964.

General Statistics

I am indebted to the Financial Officer of the Council for the following figures:—

1. Area of the District in acres	....	9,974
2. No. of inhabited houses according to the rate books	....	2,770
3. Rateable Value	....	£296,352
4. Sum represented by a penny rate	....	£1,220

The District consists of the town of Loftus, the industrial communities of Skinnin-grove and part of Carlin How and the hamlets of Liverton, Scaling, Easington, Street Houses and Cowbar. The principal industries today are the iron and steel works and agriculture.

TABLE 2 — Vital Statistics

CAUSES OF DEATH

	MALE	FEMALE
Tuberculosis, Respiratory	1	—
Tuberculosis, other	—	—
Syphilitic disease	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	—
Meningo-coccal infection	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—
Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases	—	—
Malignant Neoplasm of Stomach	1	1
Malignant Neoplasm of Lung, Bronchus	—	—
Malignant Neoplasm of Breast	—	1
Malignant Neoplasm of Uterus	—	3
Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	3	4
Leukaemia	1	—
Diabetes	—	1
Vascular Lesions of the Nervous System	7	12
Coronary Disease, Angina	16	11
Hypertension with Heart Disease	1	—
Other Heart Diseases	4	7
Other Circulatory Diseases	1	1
Influenza	—	1
Pneumonia	1	2
Bronchitis	2	—
Other Diseases of Respiratory System	—	1
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	—	—
Gastro-enteritis and diarrhoea	—	—
Nephritis and Nephrosis	1	—
Hyperplasia of Prostate	—	—
Pregnancy, child-birth, abortion	—	—
Congenital malformations	1	—
Other defined or ill-defined diseases	2	6
Motor vehicle accidents	—	—
All other accidents	—	1
Suicide	—	—
Homicide and operations of war	—	—
ALL CAUSES	42	52

Deaths

The deaths are classified under thirty-six headings based on the Abbreviated List of International Statistical Classification of Diseases, Injuries and Causes of Death, 1948. 94 deaths of residents gave a corrected death-rate of 13.6 per 1,000 of population compared to 11.5 for England and Wales.

TABLE 3

Vital Statistics

			MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
Live Births	65	72	137
Legitimate	62	70	132
Illegitimate	3	2	5
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Still Births	1	—	1
Legitimate	1	—	1
Illegitimate	—	—	—

Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age

				MALE	FEMALE
Total	....	....	....	2	2
Legitimate	....	....	....	2	2
Illegitimate	....	....	....	—	—

Births

The number of births registered in the district during the year was 137, giving a corrected birth rate of 18.1 per thousand of the population compared to 18.1 for England and Wales.

Four infants under the age of one year died, giving an infantile mortality rate of 29.2 per thousand live births compared with one of 19.0 for England and Wales.

TABLE 4

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES 1965

(other than Tuberculosis)

	All Ages	Under 1 year	1 year	2	3	4	5—	10—	15—	25—	35—	45—	65—	Age Un- known
Scarlet Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	40	1	3	5	11	8	11	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Paratyphoid	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Typhoid	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Meningo-coccal Infection	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Malaria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

TABLE 5**Tuberculosis**

No new case of respiratory tuberculosis and none of non-respiratory tuberculosis were notified during the year. There was one death from this disease.

TABLE 6**Immunisation and Vaccination**

Immunisation against Diphtheria	UNDER 1	1 TO 4	5 TO 14	TOTAL
Completed	70	33	24	127
Immunisation against Whooping Cough		0 TO 4	5 TO 14	TOTAL
Completed		103	—	103
Vaccination (Smallpox)	PRIMARY		RE-VACCINATION	
	37		36	
Poliomyelitis Vaccination	PRIMARY		REINFORCING	
	187		98	

The General Provision of Health Services in the District**1. Laboratory Facilities**

This work is now done at the Public Health Laboratory, Middlesbrough, only the biological test for tuberculous milk being carried out at the Public Health Laboratory, Northallerton.

2. National Health Service Act, 1946

With certain exceptions the Guisborough Area Health Sub-Committee of the Health Committee of the County Council exercises the functions of the Local Health Authority in supervising the day to day administration of the services provided under this Act. The Committee met every two months. It is composed of members of the County Council, of the three District Councils of Guisborough, Skelton and Brotton, and Loftus, and of certain co-opted members. Among the services administered are the following:—

Domestic Help Service	Home Nursing
Prevention of illness: Care and After Care	Health Visiting
Ambulance Service	Midwifery
Vaccination and Immunization	Care of Mothers and Young Children.

3. Prevention of Illness—Care and After-Care

The work previously carried out under this heading by the Voluntary Care Committee is now being undertaken by the Guisborough Area Health Sub-Committee. Enquiries and requests for assistance may be made to the Medical Officer of Health, District Health Office, Park Lane, Guisborough. (Telephone: Guisborough 2521).

4. National Assistance Acts, 1948 and 1951 — Section 47.

There was no procedure taken under these acts during 1965.

SECTION II

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1965

by W. C. Ranson, M.R.S.H.

Surveyor and Public Health Inspector

*To the Chairman and Members of the
Loftus Urban District Council*

MR. CHAIRMAN, MADAM AND GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in submitting my Annual Report on the work carried out in the year ending 31st December, 1965.

Water Supplies

During the year fifty-four samples of water were taken from various supply points in the district for bacteriological examination. Of these, only four showed a quality of water which was below standard.

The following table shews the results of the examination of supplies:—

TABLE 1.

AREA OF SUPPLY	CLASSIFICATION											
Zetland Estates—South Loftus	4	1	1	1	1	1	4	1	1	1	3	1
Wykeham Estates—Liverton Mines	1	1	4	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tees Valley Water Board—Skinningrove ..	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Tees Valley Water Board—Loftus	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Tees Valley Water Board—Easington	—	1	1	1	—	1	1	1	—	1	1	1
Tees Valley Water Board—Liverton Mines ..	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	1	1	1	—	1
Tees Valley Water Board—Liverton Village	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1

Food Premises

The following table shows the number of food premises of various types within the Urban District. Where more than one type of food is dealt with, cognisance has been taken of the main food sold. There is no ice cream manufactured in the district, but thirty-three premises are registered for the sale of ice cream. In addition eight premises are registered for the manufacture of sausage, brawn, pies, etc., but pies are manufactured in only four premises.

Butchers	....	....	....	5
Fishmongers	....	....	....	1
Grocers	....	....	....	21
Greengrocers	....	....	....	5
Bakers and Confectioners	....	....	....	3
Sweets and General Goods	....	....	....	27
Canteens, etc.	....	....	....	6
Licensed premises	....	....	....	18
Fish frying premises	....	....	....	7
Bakehouses	....	....	....	5

307 visits of inspection of registered food premises were made during the year.

Food Hygiene Regulations, 1965

294 visits were made during the year to food premises under the Food Hygiene Regulations and whilst the general standard of hygiene was very good, infringements of the regulations were found in 12 cases, all of these being remedied by informal action.

During the year, in co-operation with the Medical Officer of Health, swabs were taken from food handlers within the district and submitted for examination at the Public Health Laboratories in Middlesbrough. Of the 202 swabs examined it is pleasing to note that all returned negative results.

Licensed Premises

There are 18 licensed premises in the area. 48 inspections have been made to these.

Fish Frying

There are 7 fish frying premises in the district. These were inspected on 18 occasions.

Bakehouses

There are five bakehouses in use in the district. Twenty-eight inspections of these carried out during the year and only one infringement was found. This was remedied by informal action.

Food Poisoning

No outbreak of food poisoning was notified to me during the year.

Meat Inspection

During the year 1 slaughterhouse commenced use as a contract slaughterhouse, serving a number of butchers in the Tees-Side area with the result that the total number of animals slaughtered was increased by approximately 75%.

419 visits were made to slaughterhouses during the year and 100% inspection of all meat slaughtered at the two private slaughterhouses was maintained. This was only possible with the co-operation of the butchers, and a weekend rota system operated by your inspectors which entailed a certain amount of overtime being worked. As a result of these inspections, 1087 lbs. of meat and offal were condemned as being diseased or otherwise unfit for human consumption, and the whole of this amount was surrendered voluntarily.

The following tables shew meat and offal inspected and condemned, and the reasons for condemnation.

TABLE 2a—Carcasses and Offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part

	Cattle exclud- ing cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed ..	1461	25	3	3768	2508	—
Number inspected	1461	25	3	3768	2508	—
All diseases except Tuberculosis & Cysticerci	—	—	—	1	1	—
Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	42	6	—	7	23	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with dis- ease other than tubercul- osis and cysticerci	2.46%	24.00%	—	0.21%	0.96%	—
Tuberculosis only:						
Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	—	—	—	—	22	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	—	—	—	—	0.88%	—
Cysticercosis						
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses submitted to treat- ment by refrigeration	—	—	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally con- demned	—	—	—	—	—	—
Percentage of number inspected affected with Cysticercus Bovis	—	—	—	—	—	—

TABLE 2b

3 Beast Livers	Telangiectasis	1 Sheep Pluck	Abscess
1 Beast Head	Actinomycosis	1 Sheep Heart	Pericarditis
10 Beast Livers	Abscesses	2 Sheep Livers	Parasitical
12 Beast Livers	Distomatosis	1 Sheep Liver	Degeneration
4 Beast Livers	Cirrhosis	22 Pig Heads	.... Tuberculosis
2 Beast Hearts	Degenerated Cyst	19 Pig Hearts	.... Periearditis
5 Beast Heads	Degenerated Cyst	2 Pig Plucks	Abscesses
1 Beast Heart	Abnormal Odour	1 Pig Lung	.... Pneumonia
1 Beast Skirt	Abnormal Odour	1 Pig Liver	.... Milk Spot
1 Carcase of Lamb	Dead on arrival	28 lbs. Imported	
1 Beast Head	Abnormal Odour	Pig Livers	.... Decomposition
1 Beast Lung	Abnormal Odour	1 Carcase of Pork	
1 Beast Skirt	Abseess	and all organs	Septic Pericarditis
1 Sheep Liver	Abseess		

In addition to meat inspected during the year, inspections have also been made of tinned and other foods. The owners and managers of the food shops in the district have co-operated with your inspectors, and, as a result of these inspections, the following foods have been condemned as unfit for human consumption and have been voluntarily surrendered:

TABLE 2c**Tinned Foods**

Meat	203 lbs. 3 ozs.	Fruit	169 lbs. 4 ozs.
Vegetables	90 lbs. 10 ozs.	Milk	8 lbs. 8 ozs.
Fish	11 lbs. 13 ozs.	Puddings	19 lbs. 0 ozs.

Fresh Foods

Apples	40 lbs.
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HOUSING**Housing Statistics****New houses erected in 1964**

(a) By private owners	20
(b) By the Council	....	Nil

1. Inspection of dwellinghouses during the year

1.	(a) Total number of dwellinghouses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	342
	(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	611
2.	(a) Number of dwellinghouses (included under sub-head (1) above which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925 and 1932	Nil
	(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	Nil
3.	Number of dwellinghouses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	6
4.	Number of dwellinghouses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found to be not in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	336

Housing Statistics—continued

2.	<i>Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices</i>		
	(1)	Number of defective dwellinghouses rendered fit or repaired in consequence of informal action by the local authority or their officers	336
3.	<i>Action under Statutory Powers during the year</i>		
	A.	Proceedings under Sections 9 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1957	
		(1) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	Nil
		(2) Number of dwellinghouses rendered fit after service of formal notices	
		(a) By Owners	Nil
		(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners	Nil
		Proceedings under Public Health Acts	
		(1) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	Nil
		(2) Number of dwellinghouses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices	
		(a) By Owners	Nil
		(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners	Nil
	C.	Proceedings under Section 17 of the Housing Act, 1957	
		(1) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	6
		(2) Number of dwellinghouses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	Nil
	D.	Proceedings under Section 16, 17, 18, 26 and 35, Housing Act, 1957	
		(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which closing orders were made	Nil
		(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	Nil
4.	<i>Housing Act, 1936, Part 4, Overcrowding</i>		
	No accurate figures are available.		
5.	<i>Housing Act, 1949, and Housing Repairs and Rents Acts, 1954 and 1957</i>		
	(1)	(a) Number of Improvement Grants made—Standard	26
		Discretionary	1
		(b) Number of Improvement Grants refused	1
	2.	(a) Number of Certificates of Disrepair granted	Nil
		(b) Number of Certificates of Disrepair revoked	Nil

Sanitary Circumstances of the District

The following table shews the inspections for Nuisances which have been carried out by my department during the year. These inspections do not include inspections made under the Housing Acts, but include all inspections, other than food inspections, made during the year.

TABLE 3

Nuisances

Total number of inspections made for nuisances only				181
Nuisances found	....	....	....	167
Nuisances in hand end of previous year			....	1
				<hr/>
Total needing abatement	....	.	...	168
Abated during the year	..	...	....	167
				<hr/>
Outstanding at end of year	....	....	....	1
				<hr/>
Notices served—Informal	167	Complied with		167
Notices served—Statutory	Nil	Complied with		Nil
Number of summonses or legal proceedings — Nil.				

Regulated Buildings, Trades, Etc.

There are no common lodging houses, houses let in lodgings or knackers' yards.

Byelaws in force in the District

The Building Byelaws continued in operation during the year.

Sanitary Accommodation

During the year the conversion of pail closets and privies to the water carriage system continued at a satisfactory rate. There were 15 conversions, and this brings the total of houses with water carriage system to 2,716. Of the 54 houses without water carriage system, 27 can be connected to a sewer, and efforts are being made to encourage the owners to carry out the necessary conversions, but there is no sewer available at the present time for the remaining 27 houses. Some of these, however, would be able to connect to the proposed sewer extension to Liverton Village.

Refuse Collection and Disposal

Except for isolated dwellings, weekly collection of refuse has been maintained during the year. Additional transport and men have been used to augment the regular collection team for time lost during public holidays, and for periods when the refuse freighter was undergoing repair.

Controlled tipping of refuse has continued during the year at Deepdale Shale site, using the tractor digger full-time to cover the refuse with shale. With the increase in the amount of pre-packed food on the market today, the bulk of refuse being received is greatly increased. This leads to difficulty in confining waste paper to the tip during high winds, an increase in the risk of the tip being fired by unauthorised persons and a much more

rapid filling of the tip space than could be envisaged 5 or 6 years ago. The refuse collection service would be greatly assisted and these difficulties minimized if householders would burn most of the wrappings from pre-packed foods.

Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963

60 premises are registered in accordance with the above-mentioned Act, but, owing to shortage of staff, it was only practicable to carry out a full inspection of 2 premises during the year.

Moveable Dwellings

There are 3 licensed caravan sites in the area, and 14 visits were made during the year. Unsatisfactory conditions were found in connection with drainage in one case and this was remedied by the owner.

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal

The disposal of sewage is carried out by direct discharge into the sea, and during the year under review there have been no complaints received in connection with the sewer outfall. Repairs have been carried out to the concrete base of the marker beacon to the sewer.

A number of blockages were removed from the main sewer during the year and in the majority of cases these were caused by vandalism, objects removed could not have found their way into the sewers under normal conditions. Blockages on the smaller sewers continue, and in most cases these have been caused not by defects in the drain or sewer, but by carelessness or ignorance on the part of occupiers of properties served.

All new drainage work continues to be tested where practicable by the water test, but in co-operation with the Statutory Water Undertakers, during any period of water shortage, a smoke test is used. Advice on suitable drainage layouts is freely given, and it is pleasing to note an increase in the number of persons asking advice regarding the construction of septic tanks where sewage facilities are not available. Co-operation between local contractors and my department in connection with new drainage work continues to be very good, thus enabling the work of drain testing to proceed smoothly and efficiently.

Snow Clearance

A very considerable amount of time and money was spent on snow clearance during the period of exceptionally severe weather over the first 10 weeks of the year. Sunken roads in this area considerably aggravate the position at times like these.

In addition to the clearance of snow, salting and gritting of the main roads was carried out throughout the winter, and in this connection a rota system is operated by your inspectors to ensure that ice conditions over the weekend can receive prompt attention.

Clean Air Act

The following table shews the deposit in tons per square mile in respect of the deposit gauge at Skinningrove and the concentration of smoke in microgrammes per cubic meter in respect of the smoke filter at Loftus. Whilst the readings may appear to be high, it should be noted that in both cases the gauges were situated in positions where readings could be taken as the highest for the district.

TABLE 4
Atmospheric Pollution Tests

DEPOSIT GAUGE, SKINNINGROVE						SMOKE FILTER, LOFTUS			
Month	pH Value	Rainfall	Undissolved Matter	Dissolved Matter	Fe ₂ O ₃	Month	Highest Value	Lowest Value	Average
Jan.	6.2	2.36	11.36	12.80	3.67	Jan.	222	48	122
Feb.	6.3	1.48	29.66	31.10	12.36	Feb.	279	44	150
March	6.2	1.66	11.80	9.08	4.01	March	204	39	99
April	5.9	2.45	17.30	14.76	6.45	April	138	48	91
May	6.8	1.56	13.40	16.87	2.96	May	98	9	46
June	6.7	1.28	8.12	6.85	1.45	June	116	13	48
July	6.9	3.37	25.86	14.26	5.34	July	97	22	50
Aug.	6.8	2.43	3.24	8.82	0.53	Aug.	101	12	45
Sept.	5.9	5.20	22.90	13.60	5.35	Sept.	123	26	72
Oct.	7.2	0.54	9.69	4.07	1.76	Oct.	194	35	79
Nov.	5.9	4.88	9.36	15.10	3.09	Nov.	259	23	100
Dec.	7.2	0.63	9.95	3.82	3.05	Dec.	315	22	139

Factories Act, 1937—1959.

TABLE 5.

1. Inspections for the purposes of provisions as to health.

Premises	No. on Register	No. of Inspections	No. of written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(I) Factories in which Section 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	6	25	—	—
(II) Factories not included in (I) in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority	13	31	—	—
(III) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	3	20	—	—
TOTAL.	22	76	—	—

2. Cases in which defects were found.

	Number of cases in which defects were found			
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector
	1	1	Nil	1

Rodent Control

The rodent operative/store keeper has continued his duties which have included, in addition to treatment of areas for rats, the disinfection of Council houses for cockroaches and two private houses for fleas. The main sewers were treated twice during the year and light infestations were found in isolated areas. Regular surveys of the area for rats have also been carried out, and this has resulted in early treatment where infestations of rats have been found.

In conclusion, I would express my thanks to the Chairman and Members of the Council, to Dr. T. M. B. Rohan, The Medical Officer of Health, and Mr. W. Murray, the Deputy Surveyor and Additional Public Health Inspector, for their interest and help at all times in the running of the Department, also to staff and workmen, whose loyal service aids so much efficient operation. I would also like to thank Mr. T. C. Ellison, the Clerk of the Council, for his close co-operation at all times.

I am, Madam and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

W. C. RANSON,

Surveyor & Public Health Inspector.

